

# Proposed Draft Strategic Plan for Early Childhood Program FY02 – FY06

| DESIRED OUTCOMES  |
|---|
| <p>Early Childhood program offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the availability of infant/toddler child care in Utah.</li> <li>• Increase the quality of existing infant/toddler out-of-home care in Utah.</li> <li>• Support the healthy development of infant and toddlers in out-of-home care in Utah.</li> <li>• Support school readiness of pre-school aged children in out-of-home care in Utah.</li> <li>• Increase the ability of parents to choose child care, which supports the healthy development of their child while enabling the adult(s) in the family to be successfully employed.</li> <li>• Increase the ability of child care providers to meet the needs of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in their care.</li> <li>• Increase the number of child care environments that implement industry best practices for infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children.</li> <li>• Reduce the gaps and seams of quality, availability, and access in child care services for all families in Utah.</li> </ul> |

| ACTIVITIES  | TIMELINE | PRIORITY RANKING |
|---|----------|------------------|
| SERVICE DELIVERY  |          |                  |
| Early Childhood Service Delivery  |          |                  |
| Create a training based certificate of endorsement for the care of infants and toddlers.  |          |                  |
| Continue to request, grant, and monitor proposals for enhancing the affordability, availability, and quality of infant and toddler child care.  |          |                  |
| Institute on-site technical assistance (in-home and center-based) for the implementation of best practices and training concepts presented through approved CCR&R training curricula. |          |                  |
| Introduce statewide, technical assistance for developing and assessing school readiness of preschoolers in child care.  |          |                  |
| <b>Collaborative Partner:</b> State Office of Education and Head Start  |          |                  |
| Introduce statewide, technical assistance and tool for completing developmental assessments on children in child care.  |          |                  |
| <b>Collaborative Partners:</b> Early Intervention and Early Head Start  |          |                  |
| Introduction and implementation statewide of nationally recognized standards and best practices.  |          |                  |
| <i>Suggested Tools: Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale; Early Childhood Rating Scale; and Family Day Care Rating Scale.</i>  |          |                  |

| PUBLIC EDUCATION   |  |  |
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| <p>Month of the Young Child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&lt; Provider recognition events (CCR&amp;Rs lead)</li> <li>&lt; Public awareness campaign (statewide)</li> <li>&lt; DWS (internal) public awareness campaign</li> <li>&lt; Collaboration with professional associations</li> </ul>   |  |  |
| <p>Engagement of parents concerning, but limited to: child development; discipline and behavior management; choosing child care; school readiness; and available community services.</p> <p><b>Collaborative Partners:</b> CCR&amp;Rs; DWS Employment Centers; Head Start; Early Head Start; Early Intervention; PTA; Family Support Centers network; and school districts.</p>  |  |  |
| OTHER SUGGESTIONS  |  |  |
| <p>Study and integrate mental health for young children into early childhood programs and initiatives.</p> <p><b>Collaborative Partners:</b> Early Intervention and Department of Health</p>   |  |  |
| <p>Research, study, and make recommendations for providing child care provider health insurance.</p> <p><b>Collaborative Partners:</b> Salt Lake Community Action Program; Provider Associations; DWS State Council; Utah Issues; individual health care insurance providers.</p>  |  |  |
| <p>Create a compendium of statewide need, availability, and access for out-of-school time care; infant/toddler care, evening, weekend, and “odd-hour” care; and cost of delivery of identified care needs.</p>   |  |  |
| <p>Conduct a worthy wage campaign, including but limited to incorporating providing family child care as a choice for an employment plan/self-sufficiency plan within DWS.</p>   |  |  |
| <p>Study child care public policy regarding vouchers, license-exempt care, and market forces. Make recommendations for Utah that will not de-professionalize child care in Utah, nor undermine the health and safety of children in care. (Parent choice needs to be linked to education.)</p> <p><b>Collaborative Partners:</b> Bureau of Licensing; Provider Associations; Utah Children; DWS and its customers.</p> |  |  |